

From: Gary Lindgren
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement Comments

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In a general way, I fully support the proposed settlement agreement agreed to by Microsoft, USDOJ, and the 9 states. Let me tell you a little of what my background is and how I use software. I'm an engineer and develop Windows applications that control test instruments for manufacturing use. At work I also use Microsoft applications for normal office needs. At home My wife and I use Windows applications(Microsoft and others) for office use and the internet. Also at home I do a little development of Windows applications. Our home network consists of 3 PCs, One with Win2000(used mostly for regular use), one with WinXPPro(for Windows.Net development), and one with Linux OS and used for the firewall to the outside via a DSL connection to the internet.

It is extremely important that Microsoft be allowed to control what features are included in their applications. This is a must. Microsoft must be allowed to add and control what is in their operating system. The argument that the other 9 states AGs have used that Microsoft should provide a stripped down version that does not include multimedia features is bogus. Customers don't want this, it's the competition that wants this. Price has never been a problem with Microsoft products. The only problem for the competition is that Microsoft prices are too low. This is what some of the competition is worried about. Other multimedia can be easily downloaded or come from CD-ROMs from the mail(how many CDs have you received from AOL). The proposed settlement that prevents Microsoft from forcing PC builders to exclude other competition is good. This should improve competition. The settlement clause that requires Microsoft disclose the Windows APIs to the developers is extremely important. Here I have a suggestion for a small change and I believe the other 9 states will go along with this. I propose that that the Windows APIs be disclosed in 6 months time and be available on Microsoft's web site. These APIs must be freely available everyone and not just to certain subscribers to the MSDN service.

In summary:

The proposed settlement agreed to by DOJ, Microsoft, and 9 states is good. The disclosure of WinAPIs should be made available in 6 months and to everyone that wishes to see them.

Please let me know if I can be of any further service.

Sincerely,

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